Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you the latest edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

This edition puts the spotlight firmly on the state of scientific relations between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with updates on the 5th ASEAN-EU Dialogue Meeting on Science and Technology that took place in Indonesia in mid August.

For science to advance further and to help us tackle global challenges inter-regional cooperation and mobility needs to be further enhanced as Prof Bertil Andersson, President of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore highlights in his commentary.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN continues its efforts to bring together researchers from Europe and from ASEAN to provide opportunities for dialogue, exchange and cooperation. We would like to invite our readers and members to three exciting events this autumn. The Voice of the Researchers conference on 16 October (Singapore) provides a platform to explore how we can improve the European Research Area for European and international researchers. In early November, Singapore and Thailand will host the 2nd EURAXESS Links conference (details will be announced shortly on our website) with a line-up of high calibre international speakers and workshop moderators. On 13 November the 2nd EURAXESS Science Slam will see the crowning of this year’s best science slammer in ASEAN. We look forward to welcoming you at these events!

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team
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1 Commentary

‘EU-ASEAN scientific relations – a relationship of mutual benefit’

By Prof Bertil Andersson

Asia is the largest, most populous and diverse continent in which one region, South East Asia, stands out for the breadth of its cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity. Not only is it a vibrant area but it is a region of the world with rising economic prosperity. It contains geographical and population ‘giants’ such as Indonesia as well as a geographical ‘minnow’ but which is an economic giant and global city, namely Singapore. The region also forms a natural bridge between China and the other countries of East Asia and the other population giant of India and the other South Asian countries. It is also a bridge to Australasia and Oceania and a place where East and West and North and South meet.

Bringing such diversity together to promote common interests and well being is ASEAN – the Association of South East Asian Nations – now 50 years old. Its vision – the ASEAN Vision 2020 – promotes the Association as a vehicle for its members to act together in an ‘outward looking’ manner which is a very important point in our rapidly globalizing world.

Of course, ASEAN was preceded by what was happening in Europe, a part of the world of an equally complex diversity. Now this activity has evolved into the European Union (EU), the model for a supra-national activity in which nations have voluntarily pooled sovereignty for the common good.

It is only natural that these two multi-national regional organizations should seek closer relations with each other in many activities, not the least in terms of their economic and trade links. Science and research are global endeavours and so it is a natural development for EU and ASEAN nations to seek to collaborate for mutual benefit.

In the past, and taking into account many of the historical links between the nations of Europe and South East Asia, there was a tendency for brains ‘to flow’ in one direction between the two regions in the direction of Europe. In other words, the ‘brain flow’ was a ‘brain drain’. This is no longer the case. Globally there is a multi-directional ‘brain flow’. Researchers naturally gravitate to places where they can best pursue their interests and we can see South East Asia, and especially in Singapore, the creation of an environment where research is encouraged and valued. This makes it an exciting place to be, especially for the new generation of researchers.

My own institution, the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) epitomises this new situation. Backed by a very supportive government funding environment,
NTU has been able to develop dramatically as a global highly-ranked research-intensive university able to attract talent from across the world including from Europe. At the same time we are producing well-educated and motivated graduates who are fully able to compete in Europe and the rest of the world. But we are not alone and there has been similar progress by many institutions in the region. At the same time, we see European academic institutions and industry seeking to establish a presence in South East Asia to take advantage of the intellectual dynamism of the region.

As a European, and now a Singaporean by adoption, I see great benefit to both regions through greater exchange and mobility of people and for mutual benefit in research collaboration. We all need to smooth the path for this to happen and encourage a strong two way flow between ASEAN and the EU. This will be to the mutual benefit of our economies and our societies.

Bertil Andersson
President NTU

Prof Bertil Andersson is President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. A world-renowned plant biochemist from Sweden with a longstanding association with the Nobel Foundation, he has pioneered research on the artificial leaf, a promising area of sustainable energy research that uses sunlight to produce clean, low-cost sources of energy. Prof Andersson is the author of more than 300 papers covering topics ranging from photosynthesis research to biological membranes to light stress in plants.

Prof Andersson first became NTU’s Provost in 2007. He was installed as NTU’s third President on 1 July 2011. He was formerly President of Linköping University, Sweden, from 1999 to 2003, the Chief Executive of the European Science Foundation from 2004 to 2007, and the Chairman of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry in 1997. As the man at the helm of the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg, France, his last post before joining NTU, Prof Andersson consolidated research efforts across 30 European countries.

Prof Andersson has served on the boards of several Swedish and international foundations and learned societies, including the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, European Molecular Biology Organisation, Australian Academy of Science, Academia Europaea, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, and Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Prof Andersson received his BSc and MSc at Umeå University, Sweden, before completing his PhD and DSc at Lund University, Sweden.

He has received more than 11 honorary doctorates, the latest being from University of Konstanz, University of Edinburgh, Hanyang University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2 Focus on: EU-ASEAN scientific relations

2.1 The 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-8)

The 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-7) was held on 25 August 2014, in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Gusti Muhammad Hatta, Minister for Research and Technology, the Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK) of Indonesia and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Dr. Alexander Lim, Head of Science and Technology Division of ASEAN Secretariat and his staff were also in attendance.

Looking ahead at the challenges and opportunities for S&T as the main driver for economic development in the post ASEAN Community 2015, the ministers approved the proposed new vision for ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), "A Science, Technology and Innovation-enabled ASEAN which is innovative, competitive, vibrant, sustainable and economically integrated". The ministers further approved its goals on STI that will serve as a guide in the formulation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2015-2020.

The ministers approved the proposed amendments to the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF) guidelines so that innovation-focused initiatives could be funded. The ministers further agreed that the ASF shall, henceforth, be rebranded as the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF). A task force shall be established to define the appropriate criteria for the selection of innovation-related projects. In this regard, the task force shall also establish the mechanism to ensure that the level of utilisation of ASTIF, as well as the allocation of appropriate sum from ASTIF to specifically fund innovation-related projects could be rationalised.

In the Official Statement of the meeting, the Ministers noted the on-going cooperation with the European Union and expressed their support for increased ASEAN-EU cooperation in the areas of talent mobility, access to physical research infrastructure, developing joint funding mechanisms and frameworks for IPR protection. The full statement can be downloaded here.
2.2 The 5th ASEAN-EU Dialogue Meeting on Science and Technology

The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the progress since the last dialogue meeting, which took place in back-to-back with the 65th ASEAN Committee and Science and Technology meetings (COST) in Tagatay, Philippines in May 2013, and to discuss future cooperation opportunities in the context of Horizon 2020 and the new ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI).

The European delegation to this dialogue meeting was led by Dr. Konstantinos Glinos, Head of Unit C-1, DG Research and Innovation, Directorate for International Cooperation, European Commission and included representatives from the European Delegation to Indonesia, the FP7-funded SEA-EU-NET and CONNECT2SEA projects, the READI Dialogue Instrument, as well as EURAXESS Links ASEAN. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Tegu Rahardjo, Senior Minister’s Advisor for Defence Technology, Ministry of Research and Technology, Indonesia.

The European delegation members provided the meeting with an update on the key initiatives they were pursuing including the EURAXESS Links Conferences to take place in Singapore and Bangkok November 11-13, 2014 and the 2nd ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days which will take place in Paris on March 17-19, 2015.

It was noted that the APASTI, which is scheduled to be finalised by the end of the year, would provide a clearer definition on how ASEAN will strengthen its cooperation with dialogue partners such as the EU. The READI project will take a lead role in building this link with APAPASTI. Discussions took place concerning the various options for establishing joint research funding mechanisms between ASEAN and the EU, as well as the framework conditions, such as intellectual property rights, which need to be in place to support enhanced cooperation.

It was agreed that increased mobility between ASEAN and the EU should be a priority and the European delegation to the meeting agreed to support ASEAN in its development of the ASEAN Talent Mobility Program (ATM), as well as to share relevant information on the development of the European Research Area (ERA).

Background

Scientific cooperation between Europe and ASEAN became a higher priority on the political agenda following the 16th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Nuremberg, Germany in 2007. The reasons for this were the mutual interest expressed by officials to strengthen cooperation and to share experience on S&T issues of common concern such as health, food safety and energy supply. This increased interest was also a reflection of the fact that researchers from Southeast Asia were increasing their participation in the European Framework Programs which are funding research and technological development.
At the ASEAN-EU Informal Ministerial Meeting on S&T held in Manila in July 2008, it was agreed to launch a dialogue on S&T at the senior official level between the ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology (COST) and the EU. The first ASEAN-EU Dialogue Meeting on Science and Technology then took place in Vientiane, Laos PDR in May 2010 where both the EU and ASEAN agreed to enlarge the cooperation already well-established in the fields of agriculture/biotechnologies, health, ICT and environment into other areas, including material sciences and socio-economic sciences, as these fields were priority areas of both ASEAN and FP7.

For more information:

ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST)
European Commission
Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI)
SEA-EU-NET Project
CONNECT2SEA Project
ASEAN Talent Mobility Program
EURAXESS Links ASEAN
2.3 Significant Growth in ASEAN-EU Co-publications

Some recent bibliometric analyses, using Scopus data, conducted by Mr. Alexander Degelsegger and his team at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Vienna, Austria has revealed the following:

- ASEAN and EU researchers co-published close to 50,000 papers in the period 2004-2013;
- For the same period, more than 14% of ASEAN’s total publication output involved one or more researchers based in Europe;
- The rate of growth in co-publications between ASEAN and the EU exceeded ASEAN’s growth in co-publications with the US, China, India, Korea and Australia (see chart below);
- The share of co-publications with European partners in ASEAN’s overall research output is particularly high in the following areas: agriculture, fisheries & forestry; biology; biomedical research; clinical medicine; earth & environmental sciences; psychology & cognitive sciences; public health & health services;
- The top 5 countries with whom ASEAN is cooperating are the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Netherlands, and Italy.

Table 1: ASEAN’s Co-publications with Key Partners 2004-2013

Source: Alexander Degelsegger et al, ZSI, Vienna, Austria, August 2014
Table 2: Thematic Focus of ASEAN-EU Co-Publications 2004-2013

| Source: Alexander Degelsegger et al, ZSI, Vienna, Austria, August 2014 |

These findings were presented by Mr. Degelsegger at a workshop organised with the support of the FP7-funded SEA-EU-NET 2 project during the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week which took place in Bogor, Indonesia 18-27 August, 2014.
2.4 Stimulating Innovation in Southeast Asia

The [SEA-EU-NET 2 project](#) has continued its analytical activities with an analysis of innovation support policies, programmes and instruments available in selected Southeast Asian countries, the results of which have now been published in the form of a report. The study aims at supporting innovation policy in both Southeast Asia and partner regions, especially in Europe. It can facilitate policymakers’ work by providing a state-of-the-art compendium of innovation support schemes in the region. It can also support innovation performers from the public and private sector in identifying available support for their research and commercialisation endeavours. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

2.5 EURAXESS Links Conferences 2014

Singapore and Bangkok will be the venue of this year’s EURAXESS Links Conferences.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is the organiser of the 2014 edition of the EURAXESS Links conference with two full-day events taking place in Singapore (11 November) and Bangkok, Thailand (13 November). With the aim of strengthening inter-regional scientific cooperation the conferences also seek to promote science as an engine of growth.

EURAXESS Links hopes to further open up mobility between the EU and ASEAN by informing researchers on research opportunities that exist both in Europe and in European research-intensive industries established in ASEAN. Both conferences will include a number of workshops with hands-on expert advice on various themes including science communication, proposal writing, and industry collaboration. Dialogue sessions and roundtables with industry representatives, policy-makers, researchers and journalists will focus on identifying strategies to further increase EU-ASEAN researcher mobility.

Registration will open soon.
3 Editorial: ASEAN’s Economic Integration – How Science Can Help

As South-East Asia gears up to form a tighter economic community, states have much to gain from scientific input.

Plans for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to achieve economic integration by 2015 have had its ten member countries in a state of confusion, excitement and fear for several months.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will come into force next year but much of the knowledge of its implications is still confined to the leaders involved in the negotiations and discussions — and it has yet to trickle down to ordinary citizens. Jayant Menon, lead economist at the Asian Development Bank, said at a book launch in March that even the private sector is ill-informed about what individual governments are planning, or have agreed on, with respect to economic integration. It is important to clear the air and emphasise how science could be a significant factor in making integration successful for the ASEAN countries and their people.

Slowly does it

For a start, referring to integration “by 2015” is a bit misleading, since integration will not officially begin until 31 December of that year. Also the planned integration has little in common with the European Union model, where there is a single currency, judiciary and parliament — it only covers the free flow of goods and cross-border investments, labour and services. While there will be a scorecard on compliance, there will not be a penalty for failing to hit targets, as the ASEAN takes a non-confrontational approach and works on consensus building on these issues.

The planned changes are thus less dramatic than is portrayed by analysts and the media, at least initially. Progress towards more complete economic integration will trickle in over the next five to ten years. But nondramatic changes notwithstanding, the idea of integration makes perfect sense. ASEAN is a big market, comprising 670 million people; it is larger than the EU (520 million) and more than double the population of the United States. Together, the ASEAN countries represent the sixth largest economy in the world — and one that is growing fast, led by Indonesia. A tightly knit regional group could make the region relevant on the world stage amid the rise of neighbouring economic giants China and India.

Setting standards

Crucially, ASEAN leaders have recognised the role of science and technology in promoting economic growth, and how it can help the process of integration. Discussions to date have included the role of science in cooperation and setting research priorities. For instance, roundtable discussions have thrashed out the details on technology cooperation and commercialisation. There are also
continuous negotiations on ‘mutual recognition arrangements’: discussions on the movement of professionals — accountants, dentists, doctors and engineers — within the region through standardised licensing and registration.

And science could help certain sectors or countries become more financially competitive. This is something badly needed in the Philippines, for instance, where the cost of doing business is high, bureaucracy cumbersome and traffic bad. Another area of concern is the harmonisation of standards on policies that promote healthy competition, intellectual property rights, and customs procedures, as well as laboratory testing and certification of exported products. ASEAN members must agree on scientifically accepted technologies and procedures to manage the flow of goods between them. This would apply to numerous agricultural products from the region, in particular bananas, mangoes, pineapples and tiger prawns, that were banned by certain countries in the past due to unacceptable levels of harmful pesticides or chemical residues, even though they were deemed safe by the exporting countries.

Without ASEAN members agreeing to standards that can be used across the region, and are accepted globally, more powerful countries will continue to exploit trade-barrier schemes such as excessively stringent limits on certain ingredients — a problem that will persist even within the integrated ASEAN community.

Benefits and readiness

Key sectors where cooperation on science and research will be crucial under the integrated community include disaster management and preparedness, education, healthcare, industry and IT. Science can also play a big role in energy security by making the most of the region’s abundant biofuel crops and sunshine. Cooperation could begin by countries working together to realise an ASEAN power grid, for example, a concept that has been discussed for more than ten years without any significant progress. Integration could also benefit young scientists and researchers pursuing graduate degrees by increasing the availability of financial support for internships outside their home countries and by offering opportunities to do coursework in prestigious institutions within the region. This could help soften the impact of the brain drain on the region.

Realising these benefits will, however, be a challenge. Harmonising policies is difficult and cumbersome — ASEAN bureaucracy is even worse than the bureaucracy within individual governments. And the political hurdles are high.

There is also the real issue of readiness to integrate. As the start date for integration approaches, there is growing concern amongst the poorer ASEAN members that they will not be able to compete against the stronger economies of Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. To make them more competitive, individual member countries must strengthen their research and development capabilities where they have advantages, for example human resources in the Philippines, and make sure that local concerns are not neglected over regional ones.
And for science to make a really meaningful contribution, each country needs to understand and clarify the demands that integration would put on their various economic sectors and development concerns. This would make it easier to clarify the role of science and research in meeting those demands.

This article is authored by Joel D Adriano, editor of SciDev.Net’s South-East Asia edition. It has been been published by SciDev.Net.
4 EU Insight – The Pan-European Pension Fund RESAVER

One of the main goals of the European Research Area (ERA) strived for by the European Union (EU) is the implementation of “[a]n open labour market for researchers” which encompasses “facilitating mobility, supporting training and ensuring attractive careers” [3]. The free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology as called for in the Lisbon Treaty and European Council Conclusions is the key “through which the Union and its Member States strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness and their capacity to collectively address grand challenges” [3].

However, being mobile often causes challenges to researchers, as for example amongst others, gaps can arise in their social security protection and the transfer of their pension rights when moving between different countries.

Initiatives to establish a pension scheme for mobile researchers

National efforts

One pilot initiative is the “Find your pension” portal which is part of the Supplementary pension institution of public sector employees in Germany (VBL) project ‘Partnership for researchers’. The aim is to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers employed in the public sector with regard to their pensions. The core issue is to improve information services for the target group of mobile scientists.

Furthermore, the European Commission (EC) is supporting a consortium of employers, through Horizon 2020, in creating a single European pension arrangement (RESAVER) that will offer a defined contribution plan, tailor made for research organisations and their employees.

RESAVER – Retirement Savings Vehicle for European Research Institutions

In the 2012 ERA Communication, the European Commission made a commitment to support employers in removing pension as an obstacle for researchers’ mobility by “supporting stakeholders in setting up a pan-European supplementary pension fund for researchers”. Therefore, the EC is backing up a consortium of employers, through Horizon 2020, in creating a single European pension arrangement (RESAVER) that will offer a defined contribution plan, tailor made for research organisations and their employees.

At the end of June 2014, the Commission published a detailed brochure [1] and website section [2] on the EURAXESS Rights webpage which can be accessed via: rights.euraxess.org. The website and brochure contain information on

1. what RESAVER is;
2. what RESAVER offers;
(3) who should consider participating;
(4) what the advantages and challenges are;
(5) and what needs to be done to participate.

It also has a FAQ section.

**Next steps**

Currently, the European Commission’s “call for tender” to find a contractor able to provide technical assistance and expertise in the creation of the cross-border 2nd pillar IORP and the complementary country-specific insurance arrangement is open. The four year framework contract is expected to be awarded during the autumn of 2014.

In September 2014 an ad hoc employer consortium will be registered as an international non-profit organisation in Belgium. The employer consortium will promote the concept and prepare the ground for the establishment of RESAVER in 2015.

The European Commission will organise a series of seminars to inform employers on the possibilities and benefits offered by RESAVER. The next seminars will be held in Vienna on 29 October 2014 and in Copenhagen on 4 December 2014.

**Sources**


5 News & Developments

5.1 European Union

5.1.1 EU Announces New Strategy to Tackle IPR Violators

On July 1, the European Commission announced a new strategy and action plan to promote intellectual property rights (IPR) and to combat piracy and counterfeiting. Some estimate that the EU loses €8 billion (almost US$10.6 billion) of its GDP a year to these IPR infringements. The plan says the European Commission will prevent developing countries that persistently break IPR rules from participating in, or receiving funding from, EU programmes. Programmes financed by the European Development Fund or the Development Cooperation Instrument will not be affected.

Source: European Commission

5.1.2 Two Fields Medals awarded to ERC laureates

The 2014 Fields Medals were awarded to four outstanding mathematicians, of whom two are grantees of the European Research Council (ERC): Prof. Artur Avila (Brazil-France), an ERC Starting grant holder since 2010, and Prof. Martin Hairer (Austria) has been selected for funding under an ERC Consolidator grant in 2013. They received the prize respectively for their work on dynamical systems and probability and on stochastic analysis.

Source: ERC

5.1.3 Galileo launch brings European navigation system closer to reality

The launch of two European Space Agency (ESA) Galileo satellites, which took place on 22 August from French Guiana, marks the start of a new phase in Europe’s own satellite navigation programme. Galileo is an exciting project that will establish Europe’s very own global satellite navigation system, offering real-time positioning down to a metre or less. Once complete, the network will consist of 30 satellites and their ground infrastructure, working alongside existing GPS positioning and the Russian Glonass system.

Given EU estimates that European GDP is reliant on GPS applications to the tune of €800bn per annum, the project is seen as a vitally important long term investment in European technology. New businesses will be able to exploit the precise timing and location data delivered from orbit.

Source: European Commission
5.1.4 ASEAN

5.1.5 Singapore develops first genetic test kit for kidney cancer

A team of researchers and doctors from A*STAR’s Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN), the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) have developed the “world's first molecular test kit” that can point the way to the most appropriate treatment and predict the survival outcomes for kidney cancer patients.

Source: NRF

5.1.6 Asian Inventions dominate Energy Storage Systems

According to a study by the Technische Universität München (TUM), Asian companies apply for a substantially higher number of patents in electrochemical energy storage systems than their European or US counterparts.

Economists at TUM have analyzed worldwide patent applications relating to electrochemical energy storage between 1991 and 2011, as part of a large interdisciplinary project on battery storage.

The study shows that the annual number of new patent families, i.e. groups of patent applications and patents for similar or equivalent inventions (e.g. applications in different countries), rose by 110 percent from 2006 to 2011.

The most patent applications by far were filed by developers of lithium batteries: in 2011, there were 4,900 new patent families. In second place in terms of the number of patent applications filed are lead batteries with only around 580 new patent families in 2011.

The analysis indicates that Asian companies will dominate the market, submitting almost four times as many patent applications as their European counterparts. In 2011, 2,100 applications for patent families relating to electrochemical energy storage could be attributed to Asian developers; 530 to European, and only 410 to US developers. Despite a high initial figure in 2001, the Asians were able to increase their applications by 220 percent; while European applications rose by 260 percent and US applications by 70 percent.

Source: Asian Scientist

5.1.7 Vietnam to develop IT Parks by 2020

According to the draft of a master plan for Information technology (IT) park development for the period until 2020, Vietnam will have 19 IT parks with six of them in Da Nang city and the remaining will be located in provinces and cities including Hanoi, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Lam Dong, Thua Thien Hue and Can Tho.
The draft plan states that the government will support to invest in technical infrastructures inside and outside IT Parks and in construction of transportation systems leading to the parks, when investment projects of the enterprises come into operation. In addition to the above 19 IT parks, 6 other park proposals by a number of provinces have been refused permission because the relevant local departments failed to get approval from local administrations before sending the applications. The country now has 7 IT parks spread over an area of 700,000 square meters. They house 200 enterprises who employ 35,000 engineers and programmers.

Source: Vietnam Plus
6 Grants & Fellowships

6.1 National EURAXESS portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the 40 member countries of the EURAXESS network can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal.

**Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYRoMacedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK.**

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.

6.2 H2020

The European Commission has launched the first calls under Horizon 2020. Calls in the 2014 budget focus on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- **Excellent Science**: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.

- **Industrial Leadership**: €1.8 billion to support Europe’s industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.

- **Societal Challenges**: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020’s seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

To find out more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project please visit the [European Commission’s Participant Portal](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) where all calls will be published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts for European research and innovation](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess). Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.
6.3 ERC Advanced Grants

ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders of any nationality and any age to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains.

The ERC Advanced Grant funding targets researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right.

ERC Advanced Grants in brief

- Research field: any field of science, engineering and scholarship
- Researchers: any nationality, any age. Applicants must be scientifically independent and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research
- Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
- Host Institution: research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries
- Funding: up to € 2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)
- Duration: up to 5 years

Deadline: 21 October 2014

Details [here](#).

6.4 Wellcome Trust: Intermediate Fellowships in Public Health and Tropical Medicine

This scheme enables high-calibre, mid-career researchers from low- and middle-income countries to establish an independent research programme. Fellows must be based primarily in a low- and middle-income country.

Research should be aimed at understanding and improving public health and tropical medicine of local, national and global relevance. Public health and tropical medicine cover a wide range of health problems, including communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Preliminary application deadline: 31 October 2014 (5pm).

Further [details](#).
6.5 Wellcome Trust: New Investigator Award

Support outstanding researchers who are no more than five years from appointment to their first academic position, but who can already show that they have the ability to innovate and drive advances in their field of study. The research should contribute to the Wellcome Trust's vision to achieve extraordinary improvements in human and animal health, and the proposal should describe how it will address one or more of Wellcome Trust’s five major challenges.

Deadline is 14 November, 2014.

Further details.


Thailand’s National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) has post-doctoral positions available in the following of Molecular biology, Genetics, Cell biology and Computational Chemistry, Molecular Modeling, Crystal Structure.

Details here.

6.7 Thailand / UK: Researcher Links Travel Grants 2014 - call now open

The British Council, working with the Higher Education International Unit and the Thailand Research Fund, have opened a call for proposals for travel grants under the Researcher Links initiative, as part of the Researcher Links - Newton Fund

Researchers based in the UK and in Thailand may apply to spend up to 6 months in a research institution, either in the UK (if researcher is based in a partner country), or Thailand (if researcher is based in the UK).

Details here.

6.8 Thailand / France: Junior Research Fellowship Program

The Junior Research Fellowship Program aims at jumpstarting the career of young Thai researchers by giving them the opportunity to develop promising collaboration with their French counterparts. This program supports Thai post doctorates, graduated in 2010 or after, who intend to conduct a research project of two to six months within a French laboratory. All fields of research will be considered and the selection will be made based on the criteria of excellence.
The fellowship from the French Embassy includes:

- a round trip ticket from Thailand to France,
- a monthly living allowance of 1200€
- the OFII and visa fees
- health insurance coverage for the duration of the stay in France.

Further details.

6.9 Marie Curie Fellowships Open to Participation by Researchers from ASEAN

On March 12, 2014 the European Commission opened the call for the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) which offer an opportunity for individual researchers and research institutes across Europe. The grant usually covers two years’ salary, a mobility allowance, research costs and overheads for the host institution. Individual researchers submit proposals for funding in liaison with their planned host organisation. Proposals are judged on their research quality, the researcher's future career prospects, and the support offered by the host organisation.

These Individual Fellowships also offer an opportunity for European researchers to spend up to 2 years working in universities and research institutes in ASEAN.

Deadline for application: 11 September 2014

Further details.

6.10 EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year. Funding is available to organize conferences, EMBO | EMBL Symposia, workshops, EMBO | FEBS Lecture Courses, Global Exchange Lecture Courses and practical courses, as well as for keynote lectures, Travel grants support the attendance of participants from countries with less-developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organizer with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.

The consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO Courses & Workshops is ensured through a committee of EMBO Members, which selects the events that EMBO funds. Dedicated scientific organizers guarantee the long-term success of the programme to share research results and train scientists at all career stages.
Further details.

6.11 Singapore-France: Joint Bilateral Grant Call

The joint bilateral grant call between Singapore’s National Research Foundation (NRF) and Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France, is a national level collaboration between Singapore and France for French-Singapore collaborative research projects. The grant call seeks to strengthen the collaboration between French and Singaporean research communities in areas of mutual interest in order to achieve world-class scientific and technical results, leading to new and innovative technologies.

Selected projects must reflect a high degree of collaboration between both the French and Singaporean partners in planning, development and execution. Collaborating investigators must be mutually engaged throughout the course of the project. The focus of the inaugural grant call is basic research. The priority area for the inaugural grant call is materials, nanotechnologies and nano systems.

Timeline of Inaugural Grant Call

- Pre-registration of projects: 18 November 2014, 2000hrs (Singapore Time)
- Call closure date: 30 March 2015, 1900hrs (Singapore Time)

Details here.
7 Jobs

There are currently 9577 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database

AUSTRIA (Vienna): Assistant/Associate or Full Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business and Management, Webster University Vienna

Details

IRELAND (Limerick): Postdoctoral position in vascular hemodynamics, Dept of Mechanical, Aeronautical & Biomedical Engineering, University of Limerick

Details

ISRAEL (Haifa): Vacancy for established researcher conducting cutting edge research in the field of stem cell biology, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Details

NETHERLANDS (Delft): 4 Professorships in Design Engineering, Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering at Delft University of Technology

Details

SINGAPORE (Singapore): Postdoctoral Associate – Future Mobility Sensing, Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology Centre

Details

Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships

PhD positions in lifetime and stability of solar cells and modules at the NanoSYD centre, Mads Clausen Institute, University of Southern Denmark and the company partner Danfossat.

Details

A 1-year position for Experienced Researcher at the Laboratory of Reproductive Technologies, Avantea, Cremona, Italy in the project “EpiHealthNet”.

Details

PhD positions in Computer Science (Cloud Computing) at the Institute of Computer Science at the University of Göttingen, Germany.

Details
8 Events

8.1 Voice of the Researchers – Shaping the European Research Area, 16 October 2014, Singapore (Marina Mandarin Hotel)

Are you a European researcher working in the public or the private sector in ASEAN? Are you a researcher from any ASEAN member country with previous research experience in Europe? Then we want to hear from you!

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is hosting a dialogue session in Singapore on 16 October 2014. We would like to discuss with you how we can further improve the European Research Area.

Registration is free of charge and is now open online.

Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30</td>
<td>Registration opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00</td>
<td>Welcome remarks by H.E. Dr Michael Pulch, Ambassador and Head of Delegation, EU Delegation to Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.05 – 09.40</td>
<td>“Trends and developments in R&amp;D in the European Union – an overview”</td>
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<td>Presentation by representative of DG Research &amp; Innovation, European Commission</td>
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<td>9.40 – 10.00</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Tea break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 – 11.00</td>
<td>Dialogue Session 1: Research Mobility</td>
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<td>Moderators: Prof Daniela Rhodes, Nanyang Technological University &amp; Prof Peter Preiser, Nanyang Technological University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Researcher mobility in the 21st century – are all forms valued?</td>
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<td>What are the key motivating factors for an international career move?</td>
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<td>How can we improve the accessibility of the European Research Area?</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 – 12.15</td>
<td><strong>Dialogue Session 2: Europe as a global research player</strong></td>
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<td>Moderators: Prof Markus Kraft, CAMCREATE – C4T &amp;</td>
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<td>Prof Armin Aberle, CEO SERIS, National University of Singapore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What is the best destination for researchers?</td>
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<td>What are the main differences between Europe and other players as</td>
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<td>attractive research areas?</td>
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<td>Can we improve the international image of Europe as a research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>destination?</td>
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<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td><strong>Networking Lunch with representatives of European industry</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Mr Erick Lansard, VP Technical &amp; Space Development, THALES</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Solutions Asia (TBC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Short break</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.45 – 1.55</td>
<td>**“Conducting Research in Singapore – Implications for Intellectual</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Property”, study conducted by the **Embassy of the Republic of France</td>
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<td></td>
<td>in Singapore**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Florent Beau, Science and Technology Deputy Attaché, Embassy of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Republic of France in Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.55 – 2.45</td>
<td>**Session 3: Plenary session with video link to European Commission,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DG Research &amp; Innovation**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Open exchange of key messages from dialogue sessions and official</td>
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<td>communication to Commission representative as well as representatives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of EU Member State embassies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.45 – 3.15</td>
<td><strong>Tea break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.15 – 4.30</td>
<td>**Session 3: Opportunities for mobility and cooperation with Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Horizon 2020, EURAXESS, Marie Curie Actions, and European Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Council)**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speakers:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Representative of DG Research &amp; Innovation, European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr S Grimley, EURAXESS Links ASEAN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr S Rentzow-Vasu, EURAXESS Links ASEAN</td>
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<td>4.30</td>
<td><strong>End</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8.2 **EURAXESS Science Slam 2014** – submission deadline extended until 3 October 2014

In 2014, EURAXESS Links ASEAN is once again looking for ASEAN's best science slammers.

Five finalists will battle it out for the title of “EURAXESS Science Slammer ASEAN 2014” in the **LIVE** slam to be held in **Bangkok, Thailand on 13 November 2014**.

The first prize is a free trip to Europe!

If you need some inspiration, take a look at these videos of last year’s winners from **China, India, and ASEAN**.

The **deadline for submission of your video entries has been extended until 3 October 2014**.

**How to participate**

- **Step 1:** **Get creative** and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world: Tap dancing, singing, old-school presentation, scientific equipment – all is allowed.
- **Step 2:** **Make a 3 minute video** of your presentation with your camera phone (or equivalent). Make sure the presentation is in English.
- **Step 3:** **Post your video** on the EURAXESS Links ASEAN Facebook site or send us the link to your video at asean@euraxess.net.

In your email or FB post please make sure to include the following information: your email address, your full name, your place of research (University / institute / company), your area of expertise, and your nationality.

8.3 **EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events September – December 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links ASEAN Presents European Mobility</td>
<td>September 19, 2014, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia</td>
<td>Researchers and research administrators</td>
<td>Promote EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion and H2020 Mobility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Opportunities</td>
<td>Date and Location</td>
<td>Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links ASEAN Presents European Mobility Opportunities</td>
<td>September 30, 2014, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Researchers and research administrators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Voice of the Researcher Conference</td>
<td>16 October, Singapore, Marina Mandarin Hotel</td>
<td>European researchers at private and public research institutions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Workshop on &quot;How to Write a Successful EU Proposal&quot; Bangkok</td>
<td>12 November, 2014, Bangkok</td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Thai funding agencies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore &amp;</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links Conference, Singapore &amp; Bangkok</td>
<td>11 – 13 November, 2014</td>
<td>Senior S&amp;T policy makers, researchers and the general public</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase ASEAN-EU Researcher Mobility</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN &amp; Thailand</td>
<td>2nd EURAXESS Science Slam</td>
<td>November 13, 2014, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Researchers of any nationality and age in ASEAN</td>
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<td>Platform for researchers to showcase their research in a unique and highly entertaining format</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Not listed are presentations on EURAXESS Links and European mobility schemes at research institutions held by the Regional Representatives upon invitation across ASEAN. If you would like for our team to visit your research organisation please email us at: asean@euraxess.net
8.4 European Researchers’ Night, 26 September, several hundred cities across Europe

This is a mega event which takes place every year simultaneously in several hundred cities all over Europe and beyond.

Whether with family, friends, your school, or on your own, you will find yourself exploring science in engaging ways.

Discover what researchers really do and why it matters for your daily life.

- What does a Cold War bunker look like?
- How can we identify a specimen using a smart phone?
- Can we stop climate change?
- What did our ancestors use to eat?
- What is a ‘healthy city’?

These questions and much more will be answered through behind-the-scenes guided tours of research labs that are normally closed to the public, interactive science shows, hands-on experiments or workshops.

Details here.

8.5 Falling Walls Conference, 8 – 9 November, Berlin, Germany

Falling Walls Conference: Unique Access to Breakthrough Research

The Falling Walls Conference is an annual global gathering of forward thinking individuals from 75 countries organized by the Falling Walls Foundation. Each year, 20 of the world’s leading scientists are invited to Berlin to present their current breakthrough research. The aim of the conference is to:

- connect science with the innovation industry, politics, media and culture
- identify trends, opportunities and solutions for global challenges
- make research understandable to a broad audience
- inspire people to break down the walls that we face today.

Registration now open

Details here.

8.6 European Union Business Avenues Clean Technologies @ Singapore International Energy Week, 28 – 29 October, Singapore

The Clean Technologies 2014 mission will be EU Business Avenues’ inaugural mission in ASEAN with participation of 30 to 40 European companies selected
by the European Union to broaden their business and will be held from Monday, 27th October 2014 to Friday, 31st October 2014. The mission will include sector expert presentations, site visits, networking opportunities and a two-day bespoke business exhibition, as part of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW). Businesses and industry partners are welcome to come meet the European Companies to explore business opportunities.

Details [here](#).

For more information on research events across Europe and across all disciplines please visit the European Commission managed page “What's New in European Research”
9 Resources

Latest Calls
Here you can find the latest calls on the newly set up Research Participant Portal.

International Cooperation Activities
Access the portal of the European Commission's International Cooperation Activities here.

Other Research Career Sites
Find A Postdoc: http://www.findapostdoc.com/
Find Scholarships in Europe: http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/
Find PhDs in Europe: http://www.phdportal.eu/
Academic Jobs EU: http://www.academicjobseu.com
Euro Science Jobs: http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/
EMBO excellence in life sciences: http://www.embo.org
EuroBrussels: http://www.eurobrussels.com/
Jobs at ITER: http://www.iter.org/jobs
Nature.jobs: http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html
Jobs.ac.uk: www.jobs.ac.uk
Research Jobs in Germany: Research-in-Germany.de
Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Brainpower Austria: http://www.brainpower-austria.at/

10 About EURAXESS Links ASEAN

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is a network of European researchers, scientists, and scholars working in or commuting to ASEAN. This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in ASEAN or return to Europe. For further information and to sign up for membership in our network, as well as in the virtual SINAPSE community of European researchers abroad, please go to our website and click on the Join the EURAXESS Links ASEAN community hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page.